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praised as an early example of a tact which was afterwards famous. But she was a very truthful child, and perhaps it was her genuine opinion."

And this picture of her meeting with her cousin Albert, after she had insisted with deep sincerity that she cared not even to hear of the old project for their marriage, nor to hear of marriage at all: "Albert arrived, and the whole structure of her existence crumbled into nothingness, like a house of cards. He was beautiful; she gasped; she knew no more. Then in a flash a thousand mysteries were revealed to her; the past, the present, rushed upon her with a new significance; the delusions of years were abolished and an extraordinary, an irresistible, certitude leaped into being in the light of those blue eyes, the smile of that lovely mouth. The succeeding hours passed in a rapture. She was able to observe a few more details—the 'exquisite nose, the delicate mustachios and slight, but very slight, whiskers, the 'beautiful figure, broad in the shoulders and a fine waist.' She rode with him, danced with him, talked with him, and it was all perfection. She had no shadow of a doubt. He had come on a Thursday evening, and the following Sunday morning she told Lord Melbourne (to whom she previously had been pouring out her objections to marriage) that she had 'a good deal changed her opinion as to marrying.' Next morning she told him that she had made up her mind to marry Albert. The morning after that she sent for her cousin."

And these two pictures of her old age: "During her youth and middle age smoking had been forbidden in polite society, and so long as she lived she would not withdraw her anathema against it. Kings might protest; bishops and ambassadors, invited to Windsor, might be reduced, in the privacy of their bedrooms, to lie full length upon the floor and smoke up the chimney—the interdict continued. . . . In April, 1900, when she was in her eighty-first year, she made the extraordinary decision to abandon her annual visit to the south of France, and to go instead to Ireland, which had provided a particularly large number of recruits to the armies in the field (South African war). She stayed for three weeks in Dublin, driving through the streets, in spite of the warnings of her advisers, without an armed escort; and the visit was a complete success."

There is more in this life of Queen Victoria, of course, than graphic pen pictures of the woman and queen. The movement of her time is outlined. But what makes the book valuable is not that outline, to be found in so many volumes, but the pictures, for they are a delight in themselves and at the same time they invest some of the events of the Victorian era with a vitality and spirit.

THE MIRRORS OF WASHINGTON. Anonymous. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York and London, 1921. Pp. I-XI, 1-256. Fourteen cartoons by Cesare and fourteen portraits.

It is one thing to take pen in hand and write what one thinks of the notables of the land, freely and directly; it is another thing to note the success of the effort and to determine to duplicate it. For in the first case the probabilities tend to simplicity, accuracy, and lack of self-consciousness; and in the second case the probabilities tend to striving for effect, and to the seeking of the thing that, put into words, will start tongues wagging. This fact marks the great difference between the Mirrors of Downing Street and the later book which has attracted such wide attention, *The Mirrors of Washington*. Without meaning to be harsh, it must be said that the author of the latter book often seems to have been more intent upon being clever and novel than upon painting a picture.

The best mirror, the most faithful mirror, is that of President Harding. It may not be a faithful mirror a year hence, or even today. The sketch was written some months ago, soon after Mr. Harding entered the White House, and it pictures him as he was then and he had been previously. There will be those who will make the sound point that in the first year of incumbency of the presidency a man may change mightily; or rather, that he will change mightily in the visible qualities, under the pressure of incalculable responsibility. So, the mirror of Mr. Harding may be taken with some reservations, but as a portrayal of the old Harding it is excellent. It reveals him as an honest, kindly man, not

given to producing new ideas, and not overly receptive of new ideas from others; a man accustomed to traveling the easy road of the standardized and conventionalized; a man reflecting in his views of life and his values of life the very comfortable atmosphere of the prosperous town in the prosperous Ohio Valley in which Mr. Harding has spent his life. That may be accepted for the time being.

In the sketch of Mr. Wilson, the author used a trick mirror. The merit of the Wilson article is its novelty. Looking into the mirror that he held up before Mr. Wilson's austere Scotch Presbyterian personality, we see something that we never have noticed before in all the mass of critical estimates of the man. It is, in a word, a coward. The man whose favorite form of fighting, as most of us have understood, was the pitched battle is a coward. The hypothesis for the argument is that Mr. Wilson, after a short experience, abandoned the rough and tumble of practice of the law to become a teacher. He dreaded the rough contacts of life, we are informed. The average man's acquaintance, we fancy, will quickly bring to mind a number of men of his personal acquaintance who quit the law for reasons that have no resemblance at all to cowardice. But apart from that, the discerning are likely to see Mr. Wilson's abandonment of the law another manifestation of unwillingness to work with others on the plane of equality, and perhaps of his hatred of compromises, for the most successful practitioner of the law today is more or less a skilled compromiser?

Possibly, in a mood of poetic justice, the author of the *Mirrors of Washington* also uses a trick mirror in dealing with Mr. Wilson's arch-enemy, Senator Lodge. He is "the scholar in politics" become a sort of charnel house, through constant subversion of the higher standards to considerations of partisan nature, or to low sectional and personal hatreds. It is rather strange that among those who know Senator Lodge and who, generally, realize and deprecate his tendencies to extreme partisanship and to spleen, it has not been discovered that the worth of the man and the statesman still is sufficient to overcome these defects. A man of the character painted in the *Mirrors of Washington* would hardly enjoy, we believe, the personal esteem in which Senator Lodge is held by the large majority of those who know him well.

In the Root sketch, quite inadequate, the trick mirror was used less often, and in that of Bernard M. Baruch it is not used at all. As in the Harding article, the effort seems to have been primarily to portray the subject, and the result adds to the regret one feels after reading such articles as those on Mr. Wilson and Senator Lodge. One regrets that the author did not keep his eye on each of his subjects instead of allowing it to wander at times to the crowd and its taste for blood. For the Baruch article confirms the impression gained from the Harding article that the book could have been much more meritorious. No more brilliant and penetrating portrait of a public man has been written in recent times than that of Bernard M. Baruch in the *Mirrors of Washington*. To read it is to know the man.

The impression is gathered as one passes toward the middle of the book and on to the end that the author grew weary or was in haste to get his production in print. The Harvey article is inadequate; the House and Hughes articles only fairly good; the somewhat acidous Hoover article but a little better than the average critical study of the man, and those on Borah, Penrose, Johnson, and Lansing rather ordinary. That on Senator Knox is somewhat better than the general run of those of the lesser celebrities. This interesting book savors a little too much of the "smart elect" to satisfy as it might have been made to do.

THE ISOLATION PLAN (non-intercourse), with Annexes on the Covenant. By William H. Blymer. Pp. I-XXVI, 1-146. Preface; index. The Cornhill Publishing Co., Boston. \$2.

This is a new edition of the work issued in 1917, dealing with the plan for general disarmament of the nations and compulsory arbitration with those nations that refuse to conform subjected to the penalty of non-intercourse by all the other nations. Mr. Blymer states with vigor the faults as he sees them in the League covenant.